

FLAAR



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MESOAMÉRICA

Tlaloc, Yearsign and other Teotihuacan Motifs



in Classic Maya Art
at Copan, Honduras

Nicholas Hellmuth
May 2024

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FLAAR Reports

FLAAR (USA) and FLAAR Mesoamerica (Guatemala)

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 19

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras,

Publication Number 11

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Acknowledgements

We sincerely appreciate the permission from IHAH to photograph at night. You can get better photographs at night with a portable electric generator. We have donated these photos to IHAH.

Parque Arqueológico de Copán, the Museo de Escultura de Copán and museum in the town of Copan Ruinas, Honduras are all great places to visit; local people are hospitable and I have enjoyed visiting the park and the village museum in the town of Copan Ruinas in the late 1960's, 1970's, 1980's, and again when digital cameras became available, to return with higher resolution and to photograph in the new Copan Sculpture Museum.

We sincerely appreciate the assistance of the park rangers and local guides.

We also appreciate the hospitality by the archaeologists working at Copan over decades.

The IHAH team at their headquarters initiated discussions with the FLAAR and FLAAR Mesoamerica team. We sincerely appreciate the initial reunion in February 2024 that we had digitally with them.

The IHAH team at Copan provided cooperation and coordination. Manual Espinoza was assigned to be with the FLAAR team each day; we sincerely appreciate his assistance.

During our early visits to photograph at Copan (1980's onwards), Oscar Cruz was the Regional Representative of IHAH. He was very helpful on each of our field trips. He is now retired, but we went to say hello to him on our February 2024 field trip.

There are probably hundreds of photos of the Tlaloc and Yaghi sculptures. I would estimate that the various Copan projects have plenty of photos, perhaps including 3-dimensional scans. But to study details it helps to have photographs at larger size and in good resolution.

The IHAH team at Copan asked for us to show them, in-person, how we did our photography, so one evening the IHAH team came out to the plaza where we had the Honda portable electric generator and our portable studio lighting and Edwin Solares showed each member of IHAH the various ways we did our night photography. We like to share our photography experience.

www.digital-photography.org shows our camera equipment over the years.

I also thank the capable team of FLAAR Mesoamerica who assisted with setting up the portable photo studio, lighting, etc.

It will help children in Honduras and neighboring countries to learn about Maya cultural heritage if there are archaeological educational programs for local schools.

One long-range goal is to "translate" iconographic, epigraphic, and archaeological documentation into MayanToons books by FLAAR (USA) and FLAAR Mesoamerica (Guatemala) to help school children around the world learn about the Classic Maya of Honduras with reliable archaeological and iconographic documentation (rather than copy-and-paste from normal websites).

But the first step is to find all the photos, scan them if done before digital cameras; process them so you can see the details at high resolution, and provide references in a bibliography to help professors and university students and the general public. But it would be great if primary and secondary school children also had this information in a format appropriate for their early years.

Our material for university students and professors is on:

www.maya-ethnobotany.org
www.maya-ethnozoology.org
www.maya-archaeology.org

Our material for school children is

www.MayanToons.org

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We sincerely thank the IHAH team at Copán for the cooperation and coordination provided

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Caption for front cover photograph:

Cropped (so size fits on front cover) from Tlaloc high above façade in Copan Sculpture Museum.

Caption for title page photograph:

Top Yearsign cropped from one of three nearly identical sculptures in a row. We show all three complete sculptures in the present report.

Tlalocs come in different formats; Yearsigns are often but not always present

There are dozens of goggle-eyed faces and Yearsigns in the Copan Sculpture Museum. There are lots in the full-figure hieroglyphs of the façade of Temple 26 (we show these in a separate FLAAR Reports). The present report shows just samples from elsewhere.

For the Yearsign we photographed the three adjacent sculptures that have Yearsign top and bottom.

The 3-dimensional goggle-eyed feline face of EL Rastrojón we have a separate report on this (it's goggle-eye but not a traditional Tlaloc).

Yearsigns, Teotihuacan format and Copan Maya format



Traditional Teotihuacan Tlaloc with Yearsign headdress and "earrings". Copan Sculpture Museum.



Yearsign, Copan sculpture outside.



Yearsign, Copan sculpture outside.



There are three of these double-Year sign sculptures in a row, on a façade reconstructed in the Copan Sculpture Museum



This is the most complete of the three double-Yearsign sculptures. Copan Sculpture Museum.



Yearsign top and bottom with crossed motifs associated with Teotihuacan at Copan in the middle.



Traditional Yeu sign but face is more Maya than Teotihuacan Tlaloc. Copan Sculpture Museum.



"Square" Yearsign rather than triangular. Two goggled eyes but not traditional Teotihuacan style. I estimate this is in Copan Sculpture Museum (photographed decades ago by FLAAR team).

Goggle Eyes, Tlaloc and Related



This Tlaloc face is high above a façade, so you can only see it from below at this angle. Not even a ladder is high enough to see it straight on. Copan Sculpture Museum.



Copan Stela 5, CPN 47, Tlaloc; August 2, 2013. We have been doing photography at Copan every decade since 1960's.



I estimate this is a Tlaloc face although the eye rings are joined in an atypical manner for a classical Tlaloc set of goggles. Copan Stela 5, CPN 47.



One of the dozen Teotihuacan-Copan incensario lids has Tlaloc goggled eyes.



The Kan Cross "earrings" are also a Teotihuacan motif. Goggle-eyes in Copan Skull Rack, Copan Sculpture Museum.



Several of these sculptures are in the Copan Sculpture Museum; dozens more are in the CRIA warehouse.



Kan Cross earrings are a Teotihuacan motif even when in a local Copan-Teotihuacan style.
Copan Sculpture Museum, February 3, 2024.



Tlaloc goggled eyes, Copan Sculpture Museum.

The present photo album on Tlaloc and Yearsigns is one of a dozen works-in-progress on Copan

Below is the list on the other sculptures and architecture and artifact
photos that we are working on to make available as high-resolution
photos albums with iconographic discussion

*Cauac Monster, Cosmic Monster with Quadripartite Badge Headdress, Crocodile, Deer and God N,
Copan CPN 25, Altar of Stela M*

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 1,
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 1

*Scorpion, Venus, Moon Goddess with Rabbit Companion, Celestial Deities on Sky Band Motifs on Copan
Structure 8N-66C Bench Front*

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 2,
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 2

Copan Ceramic Incensario Lids, Local adaptation of Teotihuacan Style

Volume I, Photos in full-page Height, Vertical Format

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 3,
Maya Ceramics of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 1A

Copan Ceramic Incensario Lids, Local adaptation of Teotihuacan Style

Volume II, Vertical Format

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 4,
Maya Ceramics of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 1B

*Full-Figure Personified Maya Hieroglyphs on front of Bench in Copan Str. 9N-82,
House of the Bacabs, Sepulturas Group*

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 5,
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 3

Beards on Kings and Deities at Copan

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 6,
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 4

*Paddler God Faces and Hieroglyphs at Copan; Stela 2, Stela 7, Stela P Jaguar Paddler (Night/Akbal) Stingray
Spine Paddler (Day/Kin) Face-Variant Hieroglyphs and Stylized Hieroglyphs (Kin and Akbal)*

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 7,
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 5

Cauac Monsters at Copan, especially in Stacks on Corners of Palaces and Mythical Structures

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 8,
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 6

Copan Maya Ballgame Players, Maya Outfits: Chest Protector & Deflector and Thigh Protector
Mexican Ballgame Outfits: Yoke, Hacha and Ballgame Handstone
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 9,
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 7

Copan Maya Ballcourt Architecture & Scarlet Macaw Logo Goal Stones
Stepped Areas were as important as Playing Field down the Center
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 10,
Maya Architecture of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 1

Maya Ballcourt Architecture
3-Dimensional Architectural Reconstruction Drawings by David Morgan
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 11,
FLAAR Drawings Archive Segment, Publication Number 1.

Toads, Iconography as Bufo Toad, Epigraphy as Uinal Hieroglyph of Copan, Honduras
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 12,
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 8

Bats in Sculpture and Hieroglyphic Inscriptions of Copan, Honduras
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 13,
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 9

Samples of Classic Maya Ceramics of Copan, Honduras
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 14,
Maya Ceramics of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 2

Jade and Greenstone Craftsmanship of Copan, Honduras
Finished Jade Ornaments plus Documentation of Jade Working on Raw Stone
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 15
Artifacts of Jade, Obsidian, Flint (Chert) and other Materials of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 1.

Full-Figure Personified Maya Hieroglyphs: Bench Front of the "Harvard Bench" inside
Copan Structure 9M-146 of Group 9M-18
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 16
Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 10

Iconography of Incense Scattering and Maya Hieroglyphs,
Face-Variant Long-Count Glyphs on Nim Li Punit Stela 15, Belize
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 17
Maya Sculptures of Belize, Publication Number 1

The Story of the Blom Plate: a Masterpiece of Mayan Iconography
and Primary Standard Sequence, PSS, Hieroglyphs, Chetumal, Quintana Roo, Mexico
FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 18
Iconography of Maya Ceramics of Mexico, Publication Number 1
Primary Standard Sequence, PSS, Maya Hieroglyphs in the FLAAR Photo Archive, Publication Number 1

Tlaloc, Yearsign and other Teotihuacan Motifs in Classic Maya Art at Copan, Honduras

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 19

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 11

Full-Figure Personified Hieroglyphs, Tlaloc, Yearsign, Calendrical Deities, Birds, Mammals, Copan Structure 26, (Temple 26, façade overlooking the Hieroglyphic Stairway below)

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 20

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 12

Full-Figure Personified Hieroglyphs on Copan Stela 63

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 21

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 13

Copan Stela D, CPN 7, Full-Figure Personified Hieroglyphs

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 22

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 14

Crocodiles on Stone Sculpture of Copan: Altar T, CPN 25 (Altar of Stela M), Stela C, Los Sapos

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 23

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 15

Loincloth Apron Face on Stelae, Bench Fronts and other Sculptures at Copan, Honduras and Profile/Half Frontal Deity Face on Altars at Copan, Honduras; Hieroglyph T1017

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 24

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 16

Quadripartite Badge Headdress and Cosmic Monster at Copan, Honduras

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 25

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 17

Skulls and SKULL RACK, Copan, Honduras

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 26

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 18

Theobroma cacao Pods on Copan Stone Sculpture, Copan Sculpture Museum

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 27

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 19

White Male Pelican eating a Fish, 3-Dimensional Copan Stone Sculpture, Copan Sculpture Museum

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 28

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 20

Scarlet Macaw Maya Ballcourt Goalstones In the Copan Sculpture Museum

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 29

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 21

Tlaloc and Yearsign, Copan Stela 6

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 30

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 22

How best to Show Modeled-Carved Vase and Bowl Scenes?

As Rubbings? As Drawings? As Rollout Photos Cleaned?

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 31

Iconography of Maya Ceramics, Publication Number 2

Fish Nibbling on Water Lily Flowers Copan Stela N, both sides at top

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 32

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 23

Giant 3-Dimensional Turtle Altar at Copan, CPN 5, West Side of Copan Stela C

FLAAR Photo Archive Publication Number 33

Maya Sculptures of Copan, Honduras, Publication Number 24